

REMARKS

The Examiner stated that the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 11, 2004 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each foreign patent document. Applicant has filed another Information Disclosure Statement herewith including a copy of these references.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Monroe (U.S. Patent No. 6,427,540). Monroe does not disclose a control including a sensor having a pressure sensitive surface that supplies an electrical signal specific to a location of a pressure point defined by a key. Monroe discloses an apparatus for detecting a force applied on a base surface using a pressure sensor, an alternating voltage applied to the pressure sensor and a means for detecting the output voltage from the sensor (the abstract). The pressure sensor is a membrane sensor 10 that acts as a variable resistor in a branch of an electronic circuit (column 2, lines 62 to 64). A microcontroller 112 controls the voltage drop through the membrane sensor 10 to determine the applied force (column 5, lines 23 to 31). The membrane sensor 10 does not have a pressure sensitive surface that supplies an electric signal based on a location of a pressure point defined by a key as claimed. The membrane sensor 10 as a whole acts a variable resistance in a branch of the circuit, and the elasticity of the membrane sensor 10 creates a variable resistance in a circuit branch. There is no key that defines a location of pressure on the membrane sensor 10. Additionally, Monroe does not disclose a key that defines both a configuration of a control device and a location on a pressure sensitive surface of a sensor for a given control when pressure is applied to a pressure point. The membrane sensor 10 acts as a whole and does not act based on a location of pressure defined by a key. The claimed invention is not anticipated, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Monroe. Claim 1 depends on patentable independent claim 1 and is allowable for the reasons set forth above. The claimed invention is not obvious because Monroe does not disclose, suggest or teach a control including a pressure sensitive surface that supplies an electrical signal based on a location of a pressure point defined by a key as claimed. The claimed invention is not obvious, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Thus, claims 1-15 are in condition for allowance. No additional fees are seen to be required. If any additional fees are due, however, the Commissioner is authorized to charge

Deposit Account No. 50-1482, in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C., for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayment. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.



Karin H. Butchko

Registration No. 45,864

400 West Maple Road, Suite 350

Birmingham, Michigan 48009

Telephone: (248) 988-8360

Facsimile: (248) 988-8363

Dated: April 18, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF MAIL

I hereby certify that the enclosed response is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on April 18, 2006.



Amy M. Spaulding